

## **Request for Consultant: Active Transportation Researcher**

Cutting-edge community climate program in Waterloo Region is seeking an experienced researcher with impeccable project management and analytical skills to lead an active transportation research project, in an external consulting capacity. You must have a passion for research, climate action, and improving environmental sustainability.

ClimateActionWR is a collaboration focused on climate change mitigation, and is led by Reep Green Solutions (Reep) and Sustainable Waterloo Region (SWR). It coordinates the activities of Waterloo Region's Community Climate Action Plan – catalyzing action to reduce carbon emissions, establishing cross-sector dialogue, facilitating collaborative opportunities, and monitoring and measuring progress towards achieving our community's current short-term target of 6% GHG emissions reductions below 2010 levels by the end of 2020.

In 2018, an 80% GHG reduction target was endorsed by all 8 local area municipalities, to be achieved by 2050 (80 by 50). Supported by grant funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, ClimateActionWR is leading the two-year project that will lead to the creation of our long-term (30-year) Climate Action Strategy and short term (10-year) Climate Action Plan. A key deliverable for this grant funding is to develop and implement a pilot project to address GHG emissions in our highest emitting sector; transportation.

### **Required Services:**

1. Propose a research process/framework to conduct this project;
2. Work with established community partners, investigate existing related research/projects, and conduct independent research where necessary;
3. Recommend a program design for (a) community hub space(s) to help community and municipal parties understand what needs to be implemented to achieve our goal of increasing active transportation use, and how they can foster support and participation.

**See full project summary for more details.**

### **Tasks/activities:**

- Lead the execution of the transportation research pilot project, starting with designing and defining the research process you will undertake;
- Identify the local barriers, gaps, and challenges to active transportation use in Waterloo Region, related to (but not limited to) physical, skills and knowledge, and social norms. This includes understanding and providing recommendations around low-income, immigrants-newcomers, ethnic-minority, and/or religious-minority populations;
- Select the location(s) of community hubs based on partner feedback and community interest, as well as geographical connection to active transportation lanes and/or trails;
- Conduct asset mapping of community hub neighbourhoods (partners, trails, active transportation lanes, etc.);

- Map the local characteristics of each hub neighbourhood;
- Collect baseline data including travel behaviour surveys and traffic counts;
- Determine educational and campaign programming, and skill-building initiatives to be hosted at community hub(s) for targeted and general audiences (e.g., Transit Showcase, winter cycling education);
- Determine capital infrastructure needs at hub sites;
- Engage with local community and municipal partners as well as conduct independent research to gather insight and information.

**Requirements:**

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree or diploma in environmental studies or related area from a recognized university/college;
- Minimum of 5 years of research experience with a history of self-directed work;
- Proven relationship management skills, to coordinate with community and municipal partners;
- Minimum of 3 years of project management experience;
- Analytical, and able to collect and synthesize large amounts of data efficiently;
- Excellent written communication skills;
- Excellent time management skills;
- Passion for community research and improving environmental sustainability;
- An understanding of existing local active transportation initiatives and organizations is an asset;
- Some travel may be necessary to participate in meetings and events throughout Waterloo Region, as it related to this research.

**Employment details:**

Contract Timeframe: **All work must be completed by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

Work Location: In consideration of COVID-19 restrictions, our organization is currently working remotely, with the majority of meetings held virtually.

**To apply:** Please submit your resume, cover letter and the information below in one PDF file to the Office & HR Coordinator, Sarah Smouter, [office@reepgreen.ca](mailto:office@reepgreen.ca) by Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. For more detail, please see the job description at [www.reepgreen.ca](http://www.reepgreen.ca)

**Details to be included in application:**

- Proposed timeframe for project completion (including approximate number of hours);
- Your rate (hourly or project-based);
- Any additional relevant information regarding your services.